

WIDOW HELD AS HALL-MILLS SLAYER

Woman Is Jailed, Accused of Killing Rector and Singer

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for murder, even if he believed her guilty of a sordid crime.

"Mrs. Hall, I am sorry," he said, "but I have a warrant for your arrest on the charge of murder. You



Charlotte Mills Mrs. Eleanor Mills

will leave the house at once. We shall wait for you."

If the widow of the slain clergyman was unnerved she controlled her emotions superbly. Proudly she drew herself erect—she had been leaning slightly on a table—and, looking squarely at Capt. Lamb, said:—

"Why, this is preposterous. I cannot understand it. You are doing me a gross injustice," and she paused for a moment, to add: "But I shall obey. Will you excuse me, gentlemen, while I dress?"

And the woman who had just heard the accusation of murder walked slowly up the stairs. At a respectful space behind her one of the officers followed, silently taking up his station outside her bedroom door, which was kept an inch or so ajar.

As she dressed, her brother, Willie Stevens, frantically begged the officers to allow his sister to remain in her home.

The eccentric fellow, loving the dead clergyman's wife with an ardent devotion, had slipped a pair of trousers and a bathrobe over his night clothes when he was awakened from his sleep.

His hair rumpled, his face a tortured picture of horror and grief, Stevens went from one officer to another, wringing his hands and denying his sister's guilt.

She was so good, he pleaded. So good to him, to the poor, to every one. They must not take her, they could not, he cried. She was all he had.

Frantic With Grief

Up the stairs and down, his slippered feet dragging on the thickly cushioned stairs, Willie Stevens ran about like a man gone mad.

Please, might he see his sister? Just for a moment! He would do anything they asked him then. He would go to jail. He would take her place. But only let him see her, hear her voice, tell her he loved her.

But Willie Stevens was with Frances Stevens Hall that night of

the murder and police were taking no chances for a word between them, now that the sister was under arrest. She had ever completely dominated him and, if guilty, could seal his lips or instruct him what to say.

Tearful Farewell

It was scarcely any time before Mrs. Hall stepped from her room, dressed for the street, and told the waiting officers she was ready to accompany them.

As she neared the entrance, they allowed her to bid farewell to Willie. After all, he was her brother.

As officers remained within earshot, the two spoke, or rather Mrs. Hall did, for sobs choked the man and he was all but speechless.

At her touch, however, he was partially calmed. Gently she laid her hand on his shoulder.

"Don't worry, Willie," she said, "I'll be back."

The woman was hurried to state police headquarters, accompanied by her lawyer, for whom she had sent shortly after the police arrived. Attorney Watson had advised her that there was nothing for her to do but to accompany the officers. Before Watson scanned the warrant, which was sworn out by Prosecutor Bergen of Somerset county, Mrs. Hall read it.

Failed to Move Her

Bergen announced today that no details would be revealed as to the developments of the recent investigation which led up to the formal murder charge. He would not say if police had found that Mrs. Hall had an aid in the crime with which she is charged nor if Willie Stevens would be arrested.

From another source, however, it was indicated that Stevens might be taken into custody today.

During the hours in which she was griled by police Mrs. Hall faced them unflinchingly. Afterwards they admitted that they gained no admission from her.

Before the warrant for her arrest was sworn out yesterday afternoon there was a conference between state police, Middlesex county authorities and Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Parker at Morristown, N. J.

FRAU RATHENAU DIES

BERLIN, July 29 (By U. P.).—Mathilde Rathenau, the 82-year-old mother of Walter Rathenau, who was assassinated later the war while serving as chancellor of Germany, died today.

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Widow Guiltless, Asserts Ex-Maid

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aged mother added her voice to defend the pastor's widow. They made a strange contrast, these two, the 24-year-old daughter—clear skinned, pink and very pretty—and the old woman—wrinkled, subdued, slightly bent.

"Mrs. Hall wasn't the kind of a woman who could commit such a murder," the girl cried. "I expect to go to the stand to defend her as best I can against these foul charges."

Backs Up Daughter

"That's right, Louise," her mother answered. "My daughter often told me that she wished every marriage could be as happy as that of the Halls." This she added in an aside to the reporter.

"Didn't you know of the affair between Mrs. Mills and Dr. Hall?" the girl was asked.

"I won't say." She flushed. "There were rumors, of course, but I never saw them together. I will protect Mrs. Hall. Why, she and Mrs. Mills were the best of friends. When Mrs. Mills had an operation Mrs. Hall stayed with her until late at night and nursed her."

Hall-Mills Crime Baffling Mystery

(Continued from page 2)

conduct of the investigation, which was given nationwide publicity. Au-



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thorities put little credence in Mrs. Gibson's story, and the investigation gradually died out, to be revived only two weeks ago.

Charged Complicity

"At that time Arthur S. Riehl filed a petition seeking annulment of his marriage to Louise Geist, a former maid in the Hall home, in which he charged his wife with being an accessory or participant in the murder of Dr. Hall.

"In an affidavit he alleged that his wife had admitted intimacy with the rector, and said she confessed to receiving \$5,000 for forgetting what she knew about the circumstances surrounding the double tragedy.

"Mrs. Hall conferred with a New York attorney, Timothy Pfeiffer, who advised her not to comment on the new development. A short

time later the prosecutor of Somerset county announced that as the charges had been raised only in connection with divorce proceedings, he was unable to act.

"The incident seemed to have been dropped until Mrs. Hall's arrest came last night."

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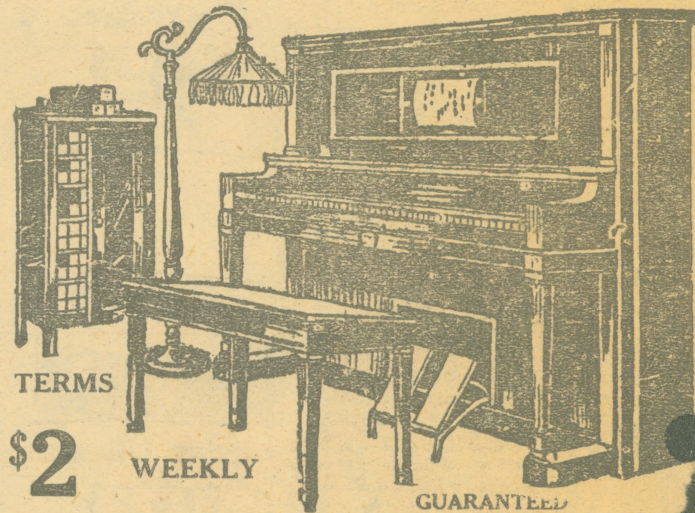
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